



Manitoba Division

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Kerri Irvin-Ross, Minister of Healthy Living
Room 310 Legislative Building
450 Broadway
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8

October 31, 2008

Dear Ms Irvin-Ross

On behalf of the Manitoba Division of the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada, I wish to congratulate you and the Honourable Greg Selinger on the introduction of the new Caregiver Tax Credit that was announced by your respective departments on October 2, 2008.

As you may know, the pursuit of a tax credit for caregivers in Manitoba was a top priority for the MS Society. The adoption of this progressive change is a positive beginning by the Manitoba Government in supporting the efforts of people providing long-term care for their loved ones.

I would also like to take this opportunity to introduce you to some of the other priority issues of concern to people living with multiple sclerosis in Manitoba. The MS Society looks to leadership from the Manitoba Government so that there is a true continuum of care. Our recommendations include:

- Develop and promote age-appropriate supportive housing, congregate care and long-term care homes for people who can no longer live in their own homes.
- Provide family support programs including childcare and respite services at a reasonable cost
- Provide a psychosocial support for caregivers such as a hotline

I hope that we can count on your continued interest and support for issues that affect the approximately 3000 Manitobans living with multiple sclerosis. If you have questions or want more information please feel free to contact Darell Hominuk, Government Relations Manager (988-0902) at the Manitoba Division office.

Respectfully submitted,

Darell Hominuk
Government Relations Manager